

Single Use Plastic Bags

Investigative Task Force Report
City of Wichita





Who are we?

Grassroots committee comprised of citizens and businesses of Wichita



What's our task?

Evaluate the impact of single use plastic bags by collecting data on:

- Environment and Pollution
- Health impacts
- Financial impacts
- Evaluating plastic bag alternatives

Why are we involved?

To provide a recommendation to the City Council as to whether we should ban or charge for single use plastic bags in the city of Wichita.





Current and ongoing actions

- Create awareness:
 - Educate the community of the impact of plastic bags
- Create community ownership of the issue:
 - Challenge for some businesses – assisting their customers with the transition. Habit changing.
- Windfall Benefits of going green
 - Job creation
 - Positive environmental impact

It's about our environment!

Americans use over 100 billion plastic bags a year, requiring 12M barrels of oil to manufacture.

The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year.

According to Waste Management, only 1% of plastic bags are returned for recycling. That means an average family only recycles 15 bags a year... others to the landfill.

Plastic bags are used for an average of 12 minutes.

Unfortunately, the bags don't break down completely but become microplastics, absorbing toxins and continuing to pollute the environment.



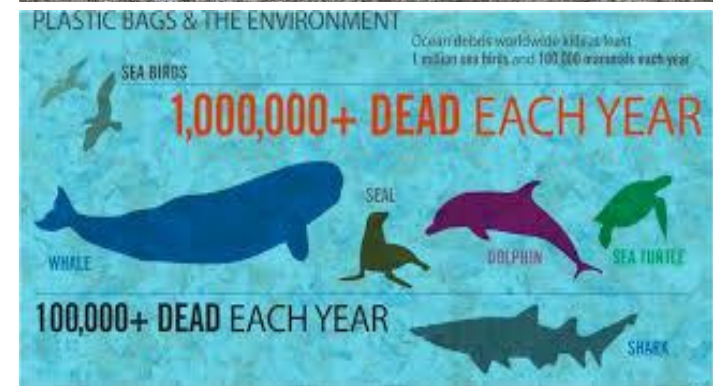
It's about our environment!

Up to 80 percent of ocean plastic pollution enters the ocean from land

At least 267 different species have been affected by plastic pollution in the ocean

100,000 marine animals are killed by plastic bags each year

One in three leatherback sea turtles have been found with plastic in their stomachs



WICHITA...



we have a **PROBLEM**



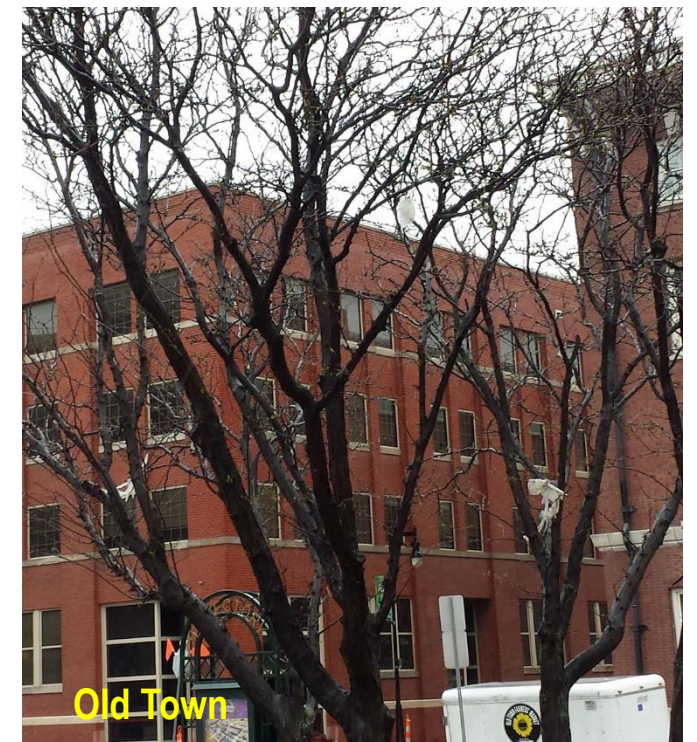
28,957,500

Population of the City of Wichita = 350,000

**number of single use plastic bags
used in Wichita since February 2020**

Source: The Center for Biological Diversity.

Local Impact





It's not just OUR problem...
it's regional



According to the EPA, 102 billion plastic shopping bags
are used and discarded in the U.S. every year.
We can reduce this tremendous waste.



Our bags impact
everywhere between
here and the Gulf of
Mexico



It's an unhealthy problem





People are consuming about 5 grams of [plastic](#) every week, which is the equivalent of a credit card, according to an [analysis](#) by the World Wildlife Fund and carried out by the University of Newcastle in [Australia](#).



Economic Impact

Plastic bags aren't free. Retailers pay for bags as supplies, with cost most often being transferred onto consumers. The plastic bag industry collects \$4 billion per year in profits from U.S. retailers.

Plastic bags inevitably end up in landfills, where they are either buried or burned in incinerators. Cities, towns, and businesses pay about \$80 a ton for them to go there

San Francisco, CA: Savings of up to \$600k per year in plastic processing fees

Cities Banning Bags – Frisco, Colorado

Plastic bag fees vs. plastic bag bans

Instead of a plastic bag ban, **Frisco adopted a 25-cent bag fee in 2019** on both paper and plastic disposable bags.

"We're still seeing over a million bags in Frisco go out the door [annually] for a town that's only 3,000 people," said Frisco Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Burley. "That was shocking to our council."

In response, **the council passed a total ban on disposable plastic bags earlier** this year that will go into effect in September.





Study Shows California's Statewide Plastic Bag Law a Success

By Thodges

The California statewide bag ban is working! CalRecycle, the agency tasked with managing and enforcing California's laws related to waste management recently released a report highlighting the results of a survey of thousands of stores and grocers.

The study found that in the **six months** after the bag ban went into effect, **in 86 percent of transactions, customers brought their own bag and didn't purchase a paper or reusable bag.** As a result, there was an 85 percent reduction in the number of plastic bags and a 61 percent reduction in the number of paper bags provided to customers. Not only did the law results in a massive reduction in the amount of plastic bags given out to customers, but a significant reduction in the number of paper bags provided.

Surfrider has advocated, **a bag law that bans plastic bags and places a fee on paper and reusable bags at checkout is the best way to incentivize consumers to bring their own bag and this study proves it.**

England
Italy
Wales
Scotland
Germany
Hawaii
Dist. of Columbia
Maine
New York
Rhode Island
Puerto Rico
New Jersey
California



Kenya
Mali
Cameroon
Tanzania
Uganda
Ethiopia
Malawi
Morocco
South Africa
Rwanda
Botswana

Globally, plastic bags are banned in 32 countries, 18 of which are in Africa
Certain areas in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia
Australia: Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania



Environmental Protection Agency:

Americans throw away more than
102 billion plastic bags
a year with **only 1 to 3 percent**
of bags being recycled.



Benefits are impactful

Healthier environment

Creates a better environment for our next generation.

Economic boost

Cleaner city

Pride – set example for other cities



It's about our future....




There is no planet B



Wichita Single Use Plastic Bag Task Force

Used with permission of Anna J. Johnson

The background of the entire image is a dense, overlapping pile of various colored plastic bags, including shades of blue, green, yellow, and orange. The bags are crumpled and tangled, creating a textured, chaotic appearance.

***“What difference is one plastic bag
going to make?”***

said 350,000 Wichitans

said 350,000 Wichitans

28,957,500

And counting!